UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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OFFICE OF
PREVENTION, PESTICIDES AND
TOXIC SUBSTANCES

Memorandum

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3/31/03

To: Arthur-Jean Williams, Chief
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Field and External Affairs Division

Subject: Effects Determination for Oryzalin for Pacific Anadromous Salmonids

We reviewed data and other information for oryzalin, an herbicide named by the Washington Toxics Coalition (WTC) and included in the court order for 'effects determinations' and potential consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service. The current major uses of oryzalin are pre-emergent weed control in grapes and almonds. A Reregistration Eligibility Decision (RED) that included an environmental risk assessment was issued in September of 1994. We have adapted the more general findings of the RED to develop an analysis of the potential for effects on endangered and threatened Pacific salmon and steelhead Evolutionary Significant Units (ESUs) from current uses. We also have sought new information since the RED was developed and have revised aquatic estimated environmental concentrations and risk quotients for fish, aquatic invertebrates, and vascular aquatic plants. OPP's levels of concern are not exceeded for direct risks to endangered fish or populations of aquatic invertebrates. However, the level of concern is exceeded for risk to aquatic plants from maximum applications in almonds and grapes; therefore, a potential exists for adverse affects to plants used for cover by salmon and steelhead.

Based on the RED and additional considerations indicated in our analysis and other attached or referenced materials, we conclude that the use of oryzalin may affect but is not likely to adversely affect 17 salmon and steelhead ESUs and will have no effect on nine ESUs. We

propose that if OPP adopts a no-spray buffer and vegetative filter strip between sites where oryzalin may be used and sites where salmon and steelhead occur, jeopardy would be avoided and take would likely be eliminated.

attachments